

What is claimed is:

1. A method for processing physical distribution information, said method comprising the steps of:

receiving and registering schedule information regarding a form of receiving of a package addressed to a member from the member;

if a shipment request is received from a sender of a package, determining a delivery form with reference to at least the receiver's schedule information registered in said receiving and registering step if said receiver is a member; and

if said delivery form determined in said determining step involves a movement of said package, generating delivery request information for a distributor in accordance with said delivery form.

2. The method as set forth in claim 1, further comprising a step of:

if said delivery form determined in said determining step involves a movement of the package, registering scheduled delivery information in said receiver's schedule information.

3. The method as set forth in claim 1, further comprising a step of:

sending said distributor information regarding said delivery form determined in said determining step before starting to deliver said package.

4. The method as set forth in claim 1, further comprising a step of:

receiving a delivery completion notice including receiving status data from said distributor.

5. The method as set forth in claim 4, further comprising a step of:

giving a predetermined point to said receiver if said receiving status data included in said delivery completion notice indicates the delivery has been

performed by following a delivery schedule specified in said delivery form.

6. The method as set forth in claim 4, further comprising a step of:

giving a predetermined point to said receiver if said delivery form determined in said determining step indicates that delivery to a home of said receiver of said package and said receiving status data included in said delivery completion notice indicates that receiving has been performed by following a delivery schedule specified in said delivery form.

7. The method as set forth in claim 1, further comprising a step of:

receiving and registering information regarding a fixed delivery charge from said distributor after said package is received by said distributor.

8. The method as set forth in claim 1, wherein there is a case where said delivery form is determined as undeliverable in said determining step.

9. The method as set forth in claim 1, further comprising a step of:

sending said sender a notice including information regarding a deliverable date if said delivery form is determined as undeliverable in said determining step.

10. The method as set forth in claim 1, further comprising a step of:

giving a predetermined point to said receiver if said delivery form is determined as forwarding or keeping in said determining step.

11. The method as set forth in claim 1, wherein in said generating step, if said delivery form is determined as forwarding or keeping in said determining step, delivery request information addressed to said distributor is generated by using forwarding destination information or keeping place information registered for said receiver in advance.

12. The method as set forth in claim 1, further comprising a step of:

receiving and registering information of specified member from said member, and

wherein, in said determining step, if said receiver is not available for receiving and said specified member is registered for said receiver, said schedule information for said specified member is referenced.

13. The method as set forth in claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

if a delivery request to a non-member is received from a sender of a package, registering information of said non-member included in said delivery request as provisional member information;

sending a member registration request to said non-member; and

sending information registered as said provisional member information to said non-member if membership registration is requested from said non-member.

14. The method as set forth in claim 1, wherein in said receiving and registering step, schedule information regarding a form of receiving said package addressed to said member is received as a predetermined template selection instruction from said member.

15. The method as set forth in claim 1, wherein said determining step comprises a step of sending a schedule input request to said receiver if said receiver's schedule information indicates it is not fixed.

16. The method as set forth in claim 1, wherein said determining step comprises a step of sending said sender a notice indicating scheduling in progress.

17. A method for processing physical distribution request, said method comprising the steps of:

    sending a central server a delivery request of a package, said delivery request specifying at least a receiver; and

    receiving a result notice of delivery scheduling including a case where it is indicated that said package is undeliverable, from said central server before starting to deliver said package.

18. A program embodied on a medium, for causing a computer to process physical distribution information, said program comprising the steps of:

    receiving schedule information regarding a form of receiving of a package addressed to a member from a terminal of the member and registering said schedule information in a storage device;

    if a shipment request is received from a terminal of a sender of a package, determining a delivery form with reference to at least the receiver's schedule information stored in said storage device if said receiver is a member; and

    if said delivery form determined in said determining step involves a movement of said package, generating delivery request information for a distributor in accordance with said delivery form.

19. The program as set forth in claim 18, further comprising a step of:

    if said delivery form determined in said determining step involves a movement of the package, registering scheduled delivery information in said receiver's schedule information.

20. The program as set forth in claim 18, further comprising a step of:

    sending said distributor information regarding said delivery form determined in said determining step before starting to deliver said package.

21. The program as set forth in claim 18, further comprising a step of:

receiving a delivery completion notice including receiving status data from a computer of said distributor.

22. The program as set forth in claim 21, further comprising a step of:

giving a predetermined point to said receiver if said receiving status data included in said delivery completion notice indicates the delivery has been performed by following a delivery schedule specified in said delivery form.

23. The program as set forth in claim 21, further comprising a step of:

giving a predetermined point to said receiver if said delivery form determined in said determining step indicates that delivery to a home of said receiver of said package and said receiving status data included in said delivery completion notice indicates that receiving has been performed by following a delivery schedule specified in said delivery form.

24. The program as set forth in claim 18, further comprising a step of:

receiving and registering information regarding a fixed delivery charge from a computer of said distributor after said package is received by said distributor.

25. The program as set forth in claim 18, wherein there is a case where said delivery form is determined as undeliverable in said determining step.

26. The program as set forth in claim 18, further comprising a step of:

sending said sender a notice including information regarding a deliverable date if said delivery form is determined as undeliverable in said determining step.

27. The program as set forth in claim 18, further comprising a step of:

giving a predetermined point to said receiver if said delivery form is determined as forwarding or keeping in said determining step.

28. The program as set forth in claim 18, wherein in said generating step, if said delivery form is determined as forwarding or keeping in said determining step, delivery request information addressed to said distributor is generated by using forwarding destination information or keeping place information registered for said receiver in advance.

29. The program as set forth in claim 18, further comprising a step of:

receiving and registering information of specified member from said terminal of said member, and

wherein, in said determining step, if said receiver is not available for receiving and said specified member is registered for said receiver, said schedule information for said specified member is referenced.

30. The program as set forth in claim 18, further comprising the steps of:

if a delivery request to a non-member is received from a terminal of a sender of a package, registering information of said non-member included in said delivery request as provisional member information;

sending a member registration request to said non-member; and

sending information registered as said provisional member information to a terminal of said non-member if membership registration is requested from said terminal of said non-member.

31. The program as set forth in claim 18, wherein in said receiving and registering step, schedule information regarding a form of receiving said package addressed to said member is received as a predetermined template selection instruction from said terminal of said member.

32. The program as set forth in claim 18, wherein said determining step comprises a step of sending a schedule input request to said receiver if said receiver's schedule information indicates it is not fixed

33. The program as set forth in claim 31, wherein said determining step comprises a step of sending said sender a notice indicating scheduling in progress.

34. An apparatus for processing physical distribution information, comprising:  
a schedule register, which receives and registers schedule information regarding a form of receiving of a package addressed to a member from a terminal of the member;

a determining unit, which determines a delivery form with reference to at least the receiver's schedule information registered by said schedule register if said receiver is a member, if a shipment request is received from a terminal of a sender of a package; and

a delivery request generator, which generates delivery request information for a distributor in accordance with said delivery form if said delivery form determined by said determining unit involves a movement of said package.

35. The apparatus as set forth in claim 34, further comprising:

a second register, which registers scheduled delivery information in said receiver's schedule information if said delivery form determined by said determining unit involves a movement of the package.

36. The apparatus as set forth in claim 34, further comprising:

a transmitter, which sends said distributor information regarding said delivery form determined by said determining unit before starting to deliver said package.

37. The apparatus as set forth in claim 34, further comprising:

a receiving unit, which receives a delivery completion notice including receiving status data from a computer of said distributor.

38. The apparatus as set forth in claim 37, further comprising:

means for granting a predetermined point to said receiver if said receiving status data included in said delivery completion notice indicates the delivery has been performed by following a delivery schedule specified in said delivery form.

39. The apparatus as set forth in claim 37, further comprising:

means for granting a predetermined point to said receiver if said delivery form determined by said determining unit indicates that delivery to a home of said receiver of said package and said receiving status data included in said delivery completion notice indicates that receiving has been performed by following a delivery schedule specified in said delivery form.

40. The apparatus as set forth in claim 34, further comprising:

a second receiving unit, which receives and registers information regarding a fixed delivery charge from a computer of said distributor after said package is received by said distributor.

41. The apparatus as set forth in claim 34, wherein there is a case where said delivery form is determined as undeliverable by said determining unit.

42. The apparatus as set forth in claim 34, further comprising:

a second transmitter, which sends said sender a notice including information regarding a deliverable date if said delivery form is determined as undeliverable by said determining unit.

43. The apparatus as set forth in claim 34, further comprising:

means for granting a predetermined point to said receiver if said delivery form is determined as forwarding or keeping by said determining unit.

44. The apparatus as set forth in claim 34, wherein, if said delivery form is determined as forwarding or keeping by said determining unit, said delivery request generator generates delivery request information addressed to said distributor by using forwarding destination information or keeping place information registered for said receiver in advance.

45. The apparatus as set forth in claim 34, further comprising:

a third receiving unit, which receives and registers information of specified member from said terminal of said member, and

wherein, if said receiver is not available for receiving and said specified member is registered for said receiver, said determining unit references said schedule information for said specified member.

46. The apparatus as set forth in claim 34, further comprising:

means for registering information of a non-member included in a delivery request to said non-member as provisional member information if said delivery request to said non-member is received from a terminal of a sender of a package;

a third transmitter, which sends a member registration request to said non-member; and

a forth transmitter, which sends information registered as said provisional member information to a terminal of said non-member if membership registration is requested from said terminal of said non-member.

47. The method as set forth in claim 34, wherein said schedule register

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receives schedule information regarding a form of receiving said package addressed to said member as a predetermined template selection instruction from said terminal of said member.

48. The apparatus as set forth in claim 34, wherein said determining unit comprises a fifth transmitter, which sends a schedule input request to said receiver if said receiver's schedule information indicates it is not fixed.

49. The apparatus as set forth in claim 34, wherein said determining unit comprises a sixth transmitter, which sends said sender a notice indicating scheduling in progress.